

JICA Newsletter

—Leading the “Caribbean” World with Trust —

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JAPAN
CARICOM
FRIENDSHIP YEAR 2024



JICA is a Japanese government agency responsible for executing Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA). JICA has 96 overseas offices (as of July, 2020) and conducts ODA projects in 150 developing countries (during fiscal year 2019). JICA has offices in St. Lucia, Jamaica, Belize and Dominican Republic in the Caribbean. We are enhancing the capacity of DR office to serve better to Caribbean people.



Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (SHEP) in CARICOM Region!

To collaborate with the regional efforts to reduce the food import bills by 25% and improve food security by 2025, JICA presented an innovative market-oriented extension approach to the CARICOM Region.



6 officials from Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, and Barbados, and 2 officials from CARDI and OECS participated in SHEP training held in Guatemala in January 2024 to verify the effectiveness of the SHEP approach.

Also, in Belize, Mr. Machida and Ms. Kawamoto, Japanese Experts in the Agriculture Value Chain, conducted a workshop on the SHEP approach.

For more information about the SHEP Approach, please visit the website: <https://www.jica.go.jp/english/activities/issues/agricul/shep/index.html>



JICA Volunteer

JICA's volunteer programs support activities by Japanese citizens who wish to cooperate in the economic and social development as well as the reconstruction of developing countries. Through these cooperation activities, participating volunteers can not only contribute to the development of partner countries but also gain valuable experience in terms of international goodwill, mutual understanding and an expansion in their international perspectives. 1,071 volunteers have been working with Caribbean people so far (as of June 2023).



Ms. Yuki Iwasaki (left), a primary school education volunteer, works with school girls at Education Office District 8, and Ms. Saya Nakata, cooking instructor, teaches at the Technical & Vocational Education and Technical & Accreditation Unit (TVET). Both volunteers in St. Lucia contribute to “Youth Empowerment and Development”, a priority area in CARICOM Secretariat Strategic Plan 2022-2030





The project consultation team for the project for **Strengthening Sustainable Use and Management of Coastal Fisheries Resources in the CARICOM countries** visited six (6) eastern Caribbean countries in February 2024. **Mr. Minoru Tamura**, Leader of the mission, Mr. Masaru Honda of the HQs, and **Mr. Hisashi Suzuki** of JICA DR review the progress, results, and challenges of pilot projects in the six countries through site visits and interviews with the relevant stakeholders and will analyze for reflection in future activities.



Tourism Resilience

JICA in collaboration with the Jamaican government and Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre (**GTRCMC**) held two-day roundtable and workshop prior to **Global Tourism Resilience Day**, on February 17, 2024. **Mr. Masato Takamatsu**, expert in the tourism sector and risk management, moderated and facilitated the event. **Mr. Naoki Matsumura**, Special Advisor to Disaster Risk Reduction Group of JICA HQs, made presentation on The role of State/Public Sector for Tourism Resilience under Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction



Ms. Kanae Tsutsumi, JICA's Local Branding Advisor.

Based on the concept of the One Village One Product (**OVOP**) Movement, the **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Food Security and Rural Development of Saint Lucia** is promoting education and human resource development for small-scale producers, building the capacity of those involved in the agricultural sector and improving the quality of life, through the establishment of local branded products by participating communities, to spread the concept of inclusive community development initiatives in which the population itself plays a leading role in community development. The Government hopes to promote the country's inclusive community development initiative, in which the residents themselves play a leading role in community development, as One Community One Product (**OCOP**, hereafter 'OCOP Saint Lucia'), Saint Lucia's version of OVOP.



What is OVOP?

One Village One Product (**OVOP**) is a movement structured by the government but led by local residents voluntarily, based on the concept of developing one village by promoting at least one product where regional resources such as local agricultural products, specialty products, and tourism resources are accepted not just locally but worldwide.

The Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP)

JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Programs are a form of technical cooperation that JICA carries out in Japan. Some of the knowledge that Japanese society has accumulated, including its background in areas such as organizational know-how and social systems, can only be understood through first-hand experience. The programs are an important means of technical cooperation which supports human resource development and resolving issues in developing countries.



Ms. Myra Arzu (left), Special Education Officer The Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology of **Belize**, presented her action plan of “Strengthening Inclusive Education System for Children with Disabilities -for Learning and Living together”.

Mr. Fernando Esquivel, representing the Fisheries Department of **Belize** shared his action plan after attending a KCCP course in Japan: Value-chain Development for Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources.



JICA Belize office continues to promote the KCCP program in Belize since it strengthens our relationship with our counterparts



My First Visit to the CARICOM Region!

My name is **Koichi Imura**, Latin America and the Caribbean Department of JICA HQs. I visited Guyana for one week in January 2024, as a member of a JICA’s mission to formulate a new project for Guyana. We had a series of discussions with the officials of government agencies such as the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Guyana Water Inc. (GWI). Guyana has made remarkable progress since the discovery of oil and gas reserves in 2015. I was impressed by the government’s commitment towards the steady development of the country and its people. There are many ongoing constructions across the country. The streetscape in Georgetown was lovely with beautiful wooden buildings.

I was also impressed that Japan's cooperation in the past is still being utilized today. I met with several Ex-participants of JICA’s training and counterparts of the past projects at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Guyana Water Inc. (GWI). I was pleased to see that they are bringing back the results of their training in Japan and applying what they have learned in their home countries. There are more than 200 Ex-participants of JICA’s training in Guyana. In addition, I had the opportunity to visit a water treatment plant that was constructed with Japanese grant aid in 2008, and it was so well maintained and clean that it was hard to believe that more than 15 years had passed since its completion. We would like to build a new relationship based on Japan's cooperative assets to date.



Ministry of Finance:
Beautiful wooden building.

Well-maintained water treatment facility, a JICA’s Grant Aid for Water Supply in Corriverton, Guyana.



UPCOMING EVENTS

End of March, 2024 Second Site visits of Data Collection Survey for Water Security in Eastern Caribbean Countries

April 09-19, 2024 Dr. Jiro Aikawa, SHEP expert, will visit the CARICOM Region.